transparent policy and has invited Resident Ambassadors in Delhi including those representing member countries of the OIC to visit Kashmir if they wish to do so.

(c) No, Sir.

Officials Joining with Multi National Companies

2240. SHRI PARMASHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some senior level technical and other officials upto Secretary level, of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and its attached/subordinate offices have joined the big industrial houses and multinationals engage in the Oil Exploration and in setting up of refineries, on retirement or resigning or by taking pre-mature retirements; and

(b) if so, how many of such officers have joined such companies during the last five years, within two years of their leaving government service and on what basis the requisite government permission was granted to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Target fixed for Lucknow Plan

2241. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:
SHRI K. M. KHAN:
MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding "Lucknow plan" and the targets fixed .to be achieved by 2001 A.D. in that regard; and

(b) the work completed so far and whether entire work in accordance with targets fixed is likely to be achieved by 2001 A.D.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Presumably, the Hon'ble Member is referring to the 20-Year Road Development Plan (1981—2001) drawn by the Indian Roads Congress which is a registered society under the Registration Act of 1860. The recommendations/targets enunciated in this Plan document are basically recommendatory in nature and are intended to serve an reference for the formulation of the Five Year Plans etc.

Passport issued/pending in Passport Offices of Bihar

2242. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many Passport Offices/ Regional Passport Offices are presently functioning in Bihar;

(b) how many passports were issued by these offices during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) what is the average time taken by these offices to issue passports after receiving applications;

(d) how many passport applications are pending in these offices for six months and above; and

(e) what action Government propose to take to clear the backlog?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) There is one Passport Office in the state of Bihar at Patna.

(b) The total number of passports issued by Passport Office, Patna during the last three years was: 36,400 in 1992; 46,608 in 1993; and 70,521 in 1994.